

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A bite device for correct positioning of a patient for taking a radiograph with a panoramic X-ray device, comprising
  - a holding member ~~that can be located in a directionally stable position relative to said X-ray device~~; a plate that ~~can be pivoted relatively pivotally attached to said holding member, and which exhibits said plate including a bite piece~~[[,]] on which the patient bites[[,]]; and means for detecting ~~the~~an angle of deflection  $\alpha$  between said plate and said holding member, ~~as is correlated with the degree of inclination of the occlusal plane, which means are disposed in a region of the occlusal system which is free from X-ray irradiation when the radiograph is taken, including means for indicating the angular position of the pivoted plate, and~~  
~~including driving means for vertical adjustment of~~vertically adjusting said holding member and pivoting said plate.

2. (Previously Presented) A bite device as defined in claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ means for detecting the angle of deflection  $\alpha$  comprise one or more sensors disposed in ~~said holding member~~.

3.-4. (Canceled)

5.-6. (Cancel)

7. (Currently Amended) A bite device for correct positioning of a patient for taking a radiograph with a panoramic X-ray device, comprising

~~a holding member that can be located in a directionally stable position relative to said X-ray device; a plate that can be pivoted relatively which is pivotally attached to said holding member, and which exhibits said plate including a bite piece[[,]] on which the patient bites[[,]]; and means for detecting the an angle of deflection  $\alpha$  between said plate and said holding member, as is correlated with the degree of inclination of the occlusal plane, which means are disposed in a region of the occlusal system which is free from X-ray irradiation when the radiograph is taken, said detecting means including~~

~~wherein said pivoted plate is connected to a rail which is connected to said plate and disposed in said holding member, is capable of being moved and movable upwardly and downwardly, and has said rail including an opening, for the purpose of detecting the position of said rail by and detector means for detecting the opening and thus the position of the rail and the angle of deflection.~~

8. (Previously Presented) A bite device as defined in claim 7, wherein said bite piece includes a replaceable protective sheath.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim 16, wherein said bite piece is of comprises a soft material.

11. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim 16, wherein said bite piece ~~is~~consists of a substantially radiolucent material.

12. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim 16, wherein said bite piece ~~is made~~consists of closed-cell ethylene foam.

13. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim 16, wherein said bite piece occupies an angle  $\beta$  of the dental arch of the patient which ranges from  $20^\circ$  to  $40^\circ$ .

14. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim 16, wherein said bite piece has, on ~~its~~an upper surface and on ~~its~~an undersurface respectively, a bite groove for the accommodation of ~~the~~a dental arch of ~~the~~ upper and lower jaws of the patient.

15. (Previously Presented) A bite device as defined in claim 16, wherein said bite piece is a unitary piece and is foldable along a folding edge.

16. (Currently Amended) A bite device for correct positioning of a patient for taking a radiograph with a panoramic X-ray device, comprising a holding member ~~that can be located in a directionally stable position relative to said X-ray device~~; a plate ~~that can be pivoted relatively pivotally attached to said holding member~~, said plate including and which exhibits a bite piece~~[[,]]~~ on which the patient bites, said bite piece including a wedge-shape tapered projection and a complementary

recess on opposite sides thereof for releasably fitting said bite piece to  
said plate; and means for detecting the an angle of deflection  $\alpha$  between  
said plate and said holding member, as is correlated with the degree of  
inclination of the occlusal plane, which means are disposed in a region of  
the occlusal system which is free from X-ray irradiation when the  
radiograph is taken,

— wherein said bite piece has, on opposite sides thereof, a wedge-shaped tapered projection and a complementary recess for the accommodation of said projection for releasably fitting said bite piece to said pivoted plate, and

— wherein said bite piece is replaceable.

17. (Previously Presented) A bite device as defined in claim 1, wherein said bite piece includes a replaceable protective sheath.